

THE ESL EXCELLENCE INSTITUTE



VOTING, THE UNITED STATES, GEOGRAPHY, MAPPING, STATE CAPITALS AND ABBREVIATIONS, HALLOWEEN AND VOCABULARY!

JOIN US!

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This education lesson is a volunteer fair use ESL instructional modality. It is one of my previous volunteer ESL lessons. It is posted to encourage ESL instructional planning creativity. This is a sample ESL high interest, multicultural, vocabulary, discourse, and reading comprehension builder lesson, coupled with effective grammar exercises. The materials are designed for middle, high school, adult education, and college level intermediate ESL. Exercise subjects: Voting, The United States, Geography, Mapping, State Capitals and Abbreviations, Halloween and Vocabulary!

Voting: the Power of Adult Citizens

Read the article.

Language Objectives

Answer questions about a reading. Write an expository paragraph that supports a topic statement.

One of the basic principles of the United States government is *popular sovereignty*. *Popular* means "of the people." *Sovereignty* means "rule" or "power." So the government is based on the idea that the people are the rulers. They hold all the power. The United States is a republic. The word *republic* means "a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law."

The people use this power when they vote. The people vote for the president and vice president every four years. The people vote for senators every six years and members of the House of Representatives every two years. The people also vote for members of their state legislature (the people that make state laws), their state governor, and for many other officials in their state, county, and city or town.

Not everyone who lives in the United States has the right to vote. To vote, a person has to be a citizen, and has to be at least 18 years old. To vote, he or she has to register. (In North Dakota and in parts of some other states, this is not necessary.) The person has to prove that he or she is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state in which he or she will vote.

Voting is done in several ways. In some areas, the voter is given a *ballot*, a piece of paper with the names of the different candidates for each office printed on it. The voter marks an "X" next to the names of the candidates he or she prefers.

In other areas, voting is done by machine. The voter moves a lever down under the names of the candidates he or she is voting for. After all choices are made, the voter pulls another lever to record the vote.

PRESIDENT vote for one			
G. Washington	1	▶	1
T. Jefferson	2	▶	2
J. Q. Adams	3	▶	3
VICE PRESIDENT vote for one			
D. Eisenhower	7	▶	7
A. Lincoln	8	▶	8
T. Roosevelt	9	▶	9
H. Truman	10	▶	10

Punch card method

Some areas may use a punch-card method. The voter punches holes next to the names of the chosen candidates. After everyone has voted, the cards are put into a computer that counts the number of holes punched for each candidate.

In all these methods, the voter's choice is *secret*. No one but the voter knows how he or she voted. A voter may tell, but no one can make him or her reveal that information.

Since 1971, nearly all citizens over 18 can vote. But this was not always true. When the Constitution was adopted in 1789, no state allowed women to vote. In many states, a man had to own property or belong to a particular church. Slaves could not vote. No one under 21 could vote. Gradually, these limits on voting rights were eliminated. African-American men gained the right to vote in 1870, but some states set up rules that made it almost impossible for many of them to vote. And absolutely no women could vote. A few states allowed women to vote starting in 1869, but not until 1920 could all American women vote. The Civil Rights protests in the 1960s caused voting reforms, and now, except for certain criminals and people in mental hospitals, all citizens over the age of 18 have the right to vote.



(Go on to the next page.)

SKILL OBJECTIVES: Reading for details; making judgments; learning about U.S. government. Discuss voting with the class. Have their parents or friends voted? Ask why voting is important. Then read the essay to the class or have it read by one or more students. Allow time for silent reading.

A Refer to the article on voting on the previous page. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T. If the statement is false, write F. If the story doesn't give you enough information to know if the statement is true or false, write ?. The first two are done for you.

1. Popular sovereignty means that the people hold the power. _____ T
2. Voters always vote in every election. _____ ?
3. Americans elect a new president every four years. _____
4. Americans elect members of the Senate and House of Representatives every four years. _____
5. Senators and representatives make laws. _____
6. Americans elect governors every four years. _____
7. A governor is the highest state official. _____
8. You must be a resident of the state for one year to vote. _____
9. The voter's choice is always secret. _____
10. People usually vote in schools or government buildings. _____
11. African-American men had the right to vote after 1870. _____
12. People in mental hospitals can vote. _____
13. No women could vote until 1920. _____
14. You should know as much as you can about the person you vote for. _____

B You read in the article that, in 1971, the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18. Before that year, the voting age was 21 in most states. Are 18-year-olds mature enough to vote? Decide how you feel about the issue and then write an essay supporting your decision. Use your notebook if you need to.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

SKILL OBJECTIVES: Reading for details; supporting opinions in writing. Part A: Review the True, False, ? format. Emphasize that if the article does not provide information for the answer, the question mark must be used, even if the student knows from other sources that the sentence is true or false. Part B: Read the instructions orally and discuss the question with the class. You may wish to have students write their essays as homework.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





A. Use the map to answer these questions. Write short answers.

1. Name 5 northern states.

2. Name 5 southern states.

3. Name 5 eastern states.

4. Name 3 western states.

5. Name 5 northeastern states.

6. Name 8 states that begin with the letter M.

(Go on to the next page.)

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Skill Objectives: Interpreting a political map; categorizing. Use the United States map as a basis for free discussion. Have students locate their state and list other states they have lived in or traveled through. Draw attention to the compass rose. Teach/review the map directions. Ask, "What state is (west) of (Texas)?" Encourage students to ask each other similar questions. Teach/review the terms Southeastern/Northeastern/Southwestern/Northwestern United States. Part A: Let students complete the items on this page and the top of page 103 independently, then

7. Name a city in Texas.

8. Name a city in California.

9. Name a city in Michigan.

10. Name a city in Pennsylvania.

11. Name a city in Illinois.

12. Name the United States Capital.

B. Odd Man Out: Cross out the word that does not belong. Write the topic or category on the line above each group. The first one is done for you.

1. states

Kansas
Utah
~~Los Angeles~~
Oklahoma

2. _____

Missouri
Chicago
Houston
Philadelphia

3. _____

Gulf of Mexico
Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
Canada

4. _____

Alaska
Hawaii
Puerto Rico
Virginia

5. _____

States
North
South
East

6. _____

Country
City
State
President

7. _____

Colorado
Ohio
Connecticut
California

8. _____

Iowa
Utah
Maine
Ohio

C. What state do you live in? What do you know about it? Find the following information about your state in an encyclopedia or almanac or by asking your teachers.

1. Where is it located? (southeast? northwest? etc.)
2. What is the total state population?
3. What is the state capital?
4. What is the largest city in population?
5. Are there any mountains, deserts, volcanoes? Do earthquakes happen often?
6. What crops, products, or industries is your state famous for?

Write a paragraph about your state which includes the information you learned. Use more paper if you need to.

I live in _____

The United States: a Geography Lesson

Read the article.

Language Objectives
Answer questions about a reading. Label features on a map from written information.

The United States is a large country with many different things to see and learn about.

There are long rivers and big lakes. The Mississippi River is a very big river in the central part of the country. It is 2,350 miles long, and it divides the country into the East and the West. The Great Lakes (Lake Superior, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Ontario) are in the north. These are very large fresh-water lakes. They are important for transportation and industry.

There are two major groups of

mountains in the United States. The Appalachian Mountains are in the East. They are very old mountains and not very high. The Rocky Mountains are in the West. They are quite large. Some are 14,000 feet high.

The middle of the United States, between these two mountain ranges, is a 1,500 mile plain. A plain is a large flat area of land with few trees. Many of this country's large farms are on this plain. A trip across the United States is an interesting experience. It is a lot of fun and a good lesson in geography.

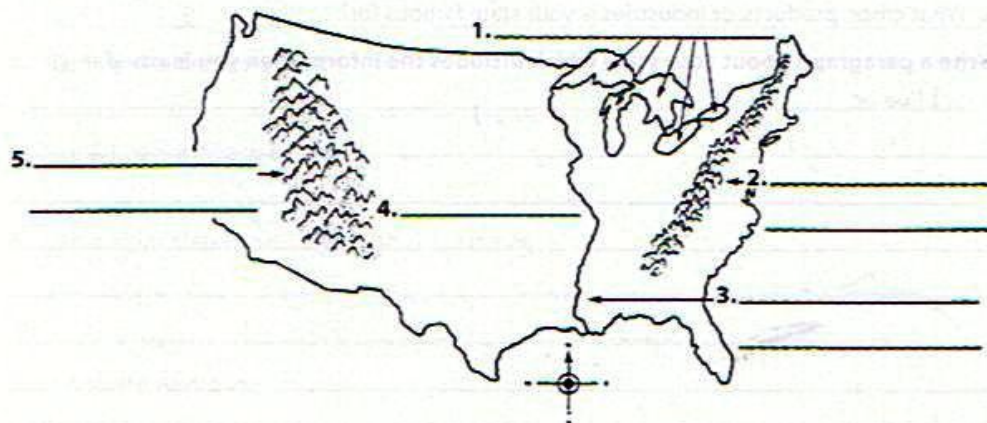
A Now read these sentences. If the sentence is true, circle T. If the sentence is false, circle F.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Mississippi River is 2,350 miles long. | T | F |
| 2. There are six Great Lakes. | T | F |
| 3. The Great Lakes are salt-water lakes. | T | F |
| 4. The Rocky Mountains are in the West. | T | F |
| 5. A plain is a group of mountains. | T | F |

B What is this reading mostly about? Circle the best answer.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. the Great Lakes | c. the United States |
| b. the Rocky Mountains | d. the Mississippi River |

C Read the paragraphs at the top of the page again. Then label the features shown on the map of the mid-continental United States below.



SKILL OBJECTIVES: Identifying main idea and details; interpreting a topographic map. Read the article aloud. Teach/discuss any new or difficult vocabulary. Have students reread the article silently, then complete the three Parts independently. Correct and discuss their answers as a class.

Unit 10

Reading Maps,
Following Directions

The Fifty States

Language Objective
Answer questions about
a reading.

Read the article.

The United States of America has fifty separate states united into one nation. Forty-eight of the states are between Canada and Mexico. The other two states are Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska is north of all the other states, on the northwest border of Canada. Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Alaska and Hawaii are the newest states. They became states in 1959.

Each of the first forty-eight states has a border that touches at least one other state. These two newest states are not even close to the others. How can they

be united with them? The quick answer is all states are united by laws—the laws of the Constitution that rule and protect citizens of the United States.

The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. Important federal government offices are in Washington, D.C. The Senate, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, the president and vice president work in Washington, D.C. All fifty states are represented there. Washington, D.C., is near the state of Virginia but it is not in any state. It is in the District of Columbia.

A Now label each of the following sentences *Fact* or *Opinion*. The first one is done for you.

- Hawaii is one of the states in the United States. Fact
- Hawaii is the best place to live in the United States. _____
- Alaska and Hawaii are the newest states. _____
- All the states touch at least one other state. _____
- It is too cold to live in Alaska. _____
- Canada and Mexico have borders on at least one state. _____
- The fifty states are united by the laws of the Constitution. _____

B Read the passage again. Then look at the following sentences. Write *T* if the sentence is true, write *F* if it is false, and write *?* if the article does not give you that information. The first two are done for you.

- The United States of America is one nation. T
- Columbia in D.C. probably was chosen because Christopher Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492. ?
- The District of Columbia is in the state of Washington. _____
- The D.C. in Washington, D.C., means District of Columbia. _____
- Hawaii is one of the newest states. _____
- The United States has only forty-eight states. _____
- The Senate and the House of Representatives is in Virginia. _____

SKILL OBJECTIVES: Reading for detail; distinguishing between fact and opinion; completing true/false/? statements. Teach/review any new or difficult vocabulary. Read the selection aloud and have students reread it silently. Tell them they can refer to it as often as they need to as they answer the questions. Do the first two examples in Parts A and B together before assigning the page for written work. Be sure students understand that the ? answer in Part B is used for any statement for which the passage does not provide information. (For example, item 2 may in fact be true or it may in fact be false, but there is nothing about it in the passage, so it is marked ?)

Name _____ Date _____

R127

FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES: QUIZ

I. Match.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. continent _____ | A. the United States |
| 2. country _____ | B. Washington, D.C. |
| 3. capital _____ | C. Atlantic and Pacific |
| 4. oceans _____ | D. North America |
| 5. largest state _____ | E. Canada and Mexico |
| 6. island state _____ | F. Hawaii |
| 7. U.S. neighbors _____ | G. Alaska |
| 8. mountains in the West _____ | H. Great Plains |
| 9. mountains in the East _____ | I. Appalachians |
| 10. longest river _____ | J. Rockies |
| 11. There are five _____ | K. Mississippi |
| 12. the flat land in the _____
middle of the U.S. | L. Great Lakes |

Name _____

2-24

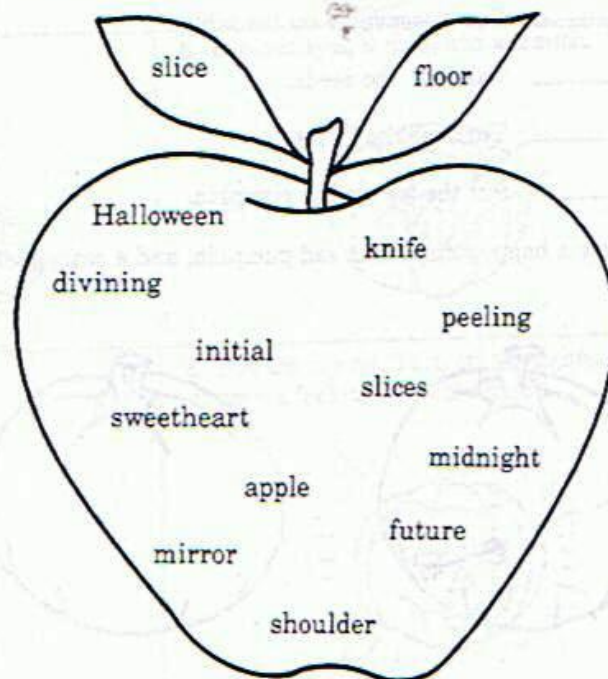
HALLOWEEN DIVINATION

Directions: Fill in the blanks with words from the apple.

Divination is the practice of trying to foretell the (1) _____ from signs and omens. On (2) _____, girls have used various methods of (3) _____ the future.

A girl would go into her bedroom at (4) _____ and cut an (5) _____ into nine (6) _____. She would hold each slice on the tip of the (7) _____ before eating it. She thought she could look in the (8) _____ and see the face of her future (9) _____ behind her shoulder. He would then ask to eat the last (10) _____ of apple.

Sometimes a girl would peel an apple being careful to keep the (11) _____ in one piece. Then she would swing it around her head three times and drop it over her left (12) _____. It was supposed to fall to the (13) _____ in the shape of her future sweetheart's (14) _____.



Name _____

2-25

HALLOWEEN SPIRITS

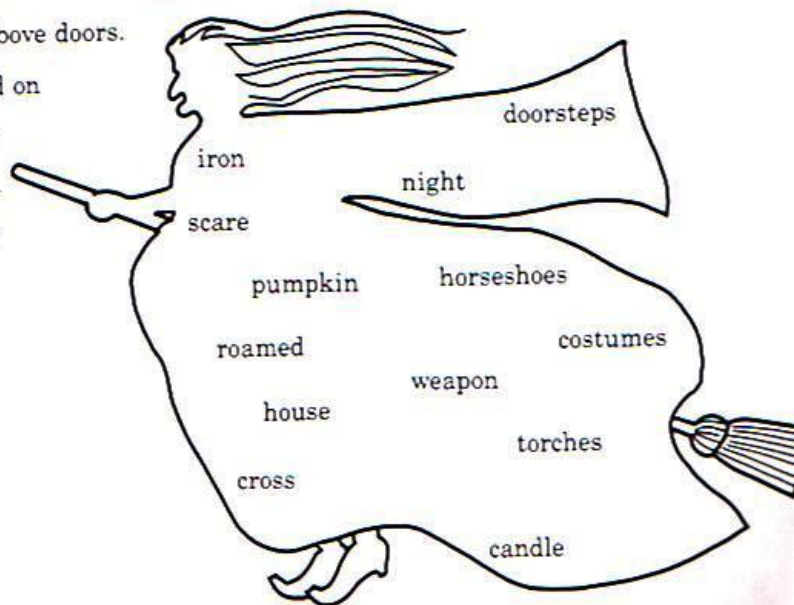
Directions: Fill in the blanks with words from the witch.

In ancient times, people thought that ghosts, demons, and witches (1) _____ the earth on Halloween night. People began dressing in terrifying (2) _____ to try to (3) _____ these evil spirits away.

Fire was believed to be a good (4) _____ against witches, so some people carried lighted (5) _____ on Halloween (6) _____. Others hollowed out a turnip or (7) _____, carved a scary face on it, placed a lighted (8) _____ inside and carried this jack-o'-lantern around to scare away the witches and all other evil spirits. Some people placed these jack-o'-lanterns on (9) _____ or windowsills to frighten the spirits away from the (10) _____.

Although fire was considered to be the most trustworthy weapon against witches, (11) _____ was also supposed to be good. Iron (12) _____ were carried or hung above doors.

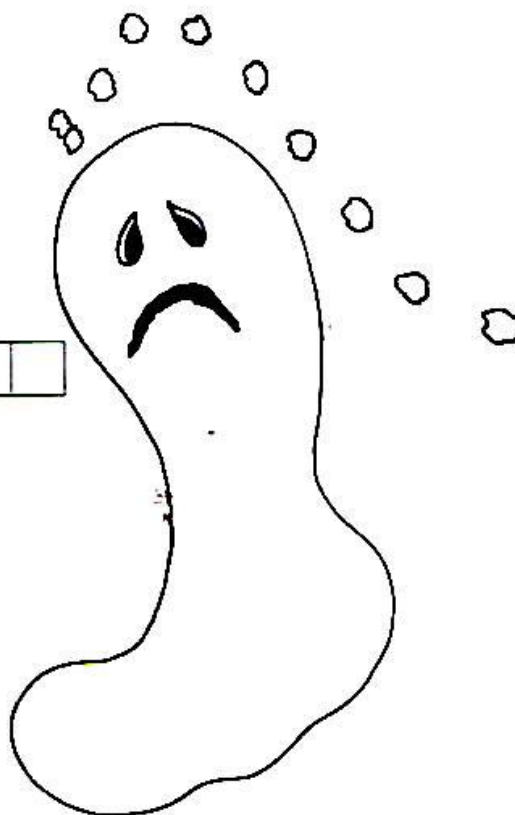
Other people relied on making the sign of the (13) _____ to keep the evil spirits from harming them.



HALLOWEEN WORD SCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble the words. Write them in the correct places.

1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									



1. radk

2. lpsel

3. ctiwh

4. orhror

5. msacer

6. sogths

7. ysopok

8. emutsoc

9. kpinpum

10. olewnleHa

THE STATES AND THEIR CAPITALS

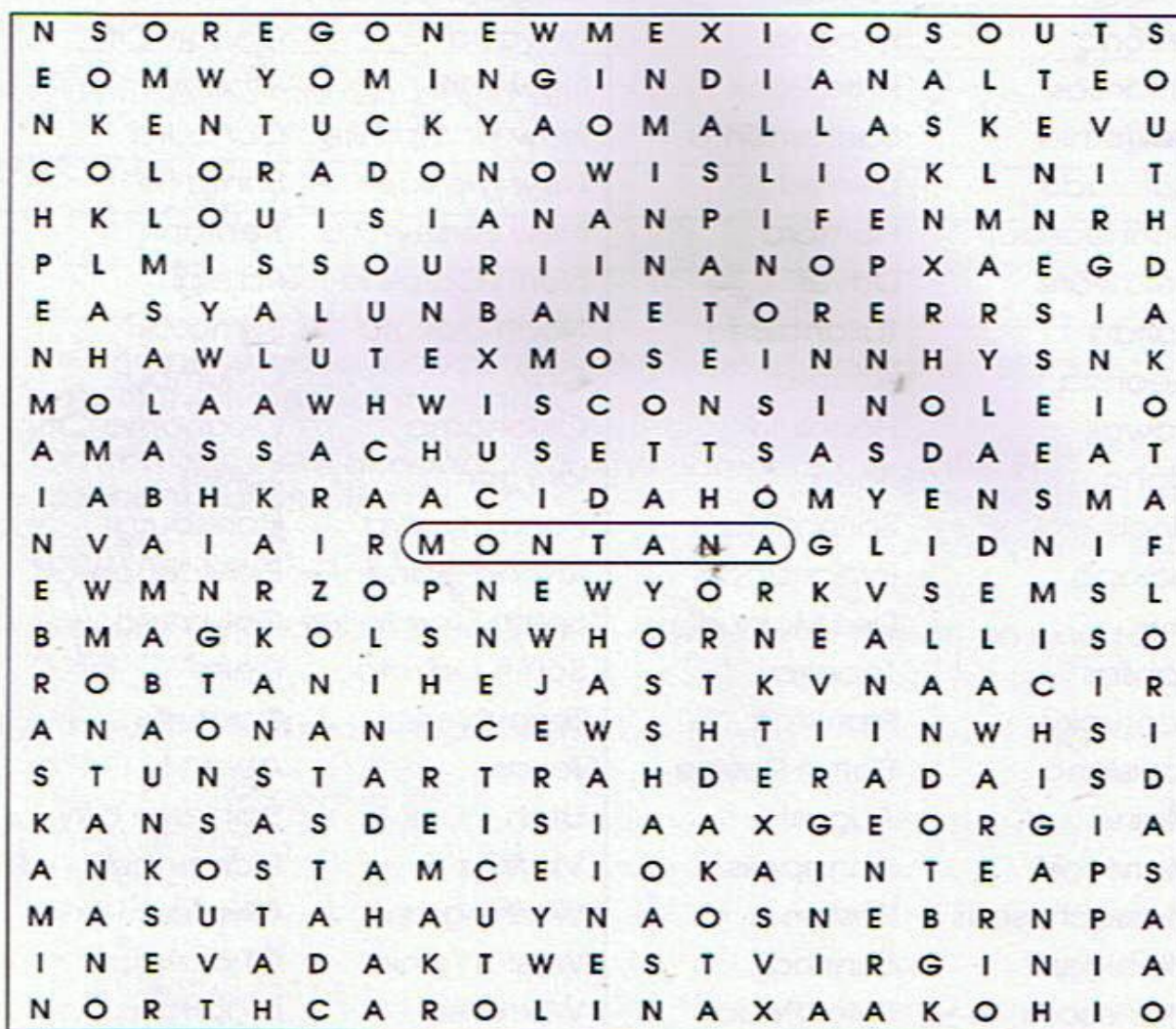
Find these states on the map.

STATE	CAPITAL	STATE	CAPITAL
Alabama	Montgomery	Montana	Helena
Alaska	Juneau	Nebraska	Lincoln
Arizona	Phoenix	Nevada	Carson City
Arkansas	Little Rock	New York	Albany
California	Sacramento	New Hampshire	Concord
Colorado	Denver	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Connecticut	Hartford	New Jersey	Trenton
Delaware	Dover	North Carolina	Raleigh
Florida	Tallahassee	North Dakota	Bismarck
Georgia	Atlanta	Ohio	Columbus
Hawaii	Honolulu	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Idaho	Boise	Oregon	Salem
Illinois	Springfield	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg
Indiana	Indianapolis	Rhode Island	Providence
Iowa	Des Moines	South Carolina	Columbia
Kansas	Topeka	South Dakota	Pierre
Kentucky	Frankfort	Tennessee	Nashville
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	Texas	Austin
Maine	Augusta	Utah	Salt Lake City
Maryland	Annapolis	Virginia	Richmond
Massachusetts	Boston	Washington	Olympia
Michigan	Lansing	West Virginia	Charleston
Minnesota	Saint Paul	Wisconsin	Madison
Mississippi	Jackson	Wyoming	Cheyenne
Missouri	Jefferson City		District of Columbia

R124 Name _____ Date _____

UNITED STATES WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the names of the states in this puzzle



Vocabulary

USE A DICTIONARY AND
COMPLETE THIS.

Circle the word that does not belong.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. tennis | soccer | skating | ping-pong |
| 2. older | oldest | quieter | bigger |
| 3. gentle | kind | nice | historic |
| 4. heavy | curious | interested | nosy |
| 5. similar | particular | alike | same |
| 6. comics | editorials | chapters | classifieds |
| 7. shy | bashful | complicated | quiet |
| 8. bad | better | worst | worse |
| 9. carefully | quickly | slowly | friendly |
| 10. electrician | mechanic | economics | accountant |
| 11. mountain | earthquake | tornado | hurricane |
| 12. taken | wrote | flown | seen |
| 13. New York | New Jersey | New England | New Mexico |
| 14. past | present | progress | future |
| 15. killed | murdered | assassinated | conquered |
| 16. license | rules | regulations | laws |
| 17. cattle | corn | potatoes | wheat |
| 18. kitten | puppy | tiger | colt |
| 19. yen | pound | ounce | rupee |
| 20. immature | studious | childish | juvenile |
| 21. one | four | five | seven |
| 22. frightening | amusing | terrifying | horrifying |
| 23. careful | confident | secure | self-assured |
| 24. own | owe | possess | hold |
| 25. fix | repair | adjust | retain |
| 26. criticize | praise | admire | adore |
| 27. central | main | important | middle |
| 28. incredible | cautious | astonishing | amazing |
| 29. verb | noun | question | adjective |
| 30. march | rich | which | stomach |



VOCABULARY REVIEW: Read the directions with the students and be sure they understand what they are to do. They may recognize this as the Odd Man Out activity. Do two or three examples with the students, then let them complete the page independently, reminding them that in this kind of exercise they must find the best answer, not just any possible one. When they have finished the page, review the answers, asking students to explain their choices.

Counting Electoral College votes.

<http://www.handsonenglish.com/currentevents.html>

GREAT ADVANCED LEVEL WORK!

FILL IN THE ABBREVIATIONS. USE THE MAP

FL - MD - LA - NV - GA - KS - WV - ME -
OR - UT - MO - SD - NE - MA - TN - IA
VA - CA - TX - SC - OH - NY - IL - AL - IN -
WY - ID - CO - NM - RI - NH - WA - HI
VT - AZ - ND - NJ - AR - MN - MS - MI - KY
- MT - PA - AK - NC - DE - WI - CT -

State Abbreviations

Alabama	_____	Montana	_____
Alaska	_____	Nebraska	_____
Arizona	_____	Nevada	_____
Arkansas	_____	New Hampshire	_____
California	_____	New Jersey	_____
Colorado	_____	New Mexico	_____
Connecticut	_____	New York	_____
Delaware	_____	North Carolina	_____
Florida	_____	North Dakota	_____
Georgia	_____	Ohio	_____
Hawaii	_____	Oklahoma	_____
Idaho	_____	Oregon	_____
Illinois	_____	Pennsylvania	_____
Indiana	_____	Rhode Island	_____
Iowa	_____	South Carolina	_____
Kansas	_____	South Dakota	_____
Kentucky	_____	Tennessee	_____
Louisiana	_____	Texas	_____
Maine	_____	Utah	_____
Maryland	_____	Vermont	_____
Massachusetts	_____	Virginia	_____
Michigan	_____	Washington	_____
Minnesota	_____	West Virginia	_____
Mississippi	_____	Wisconsin	_____
Missouri	_____	Wyoming	_____

45 Vocabulary review 3

Select the correct answer and write it in the space provided.



1. The opposite of *sharp* is (new, funny, dull, necessary). *dull*
2. *I'd rather go* means that I (want to, prefer to, had better, seldom) go. _____
3. Which of these words is not spelled correctly: breakfast, secretary, committee, entrence? _____
4. What is the corresponding noun form of the verb *to agree*? _____
5. What is the corresponding verb form of the noun *explosion*? _____
6. Which one of these verbs has the same form in the past tense as in the present tense: go, walk, take, put, see? _____
7. Which of these is a past participle: find, thank, saw, been, went? _____
8. We pronounce the word *comb* to rhyme with (come, sum, tomb, home). _____
9. We pronounce the word *axe* to rhyme with (fix, fast, lacks, first). _____
10. If a man does something *by himself*, he does it (well, hurriedly, to himself, alone). _____
11. A synonym for *besides* is (alongside, near, in addition to, close). _____
12. What is the corresponding noun form of the verb *to advise*? _____
13. The opposite of *frequently* is (often, new, seldom, now). _____
14. *Lately* means (often, very soon, recently, later). _____
15. *I'm kidding* means I'm (smiling, joking, crying, laughing). _____
16. Which letter in the word *answer* is silent (not pronounced)? _____
17. Which letter in the word *listen* is silent (not pronounced)? _____

44 Prepositions 3

Write the correct prepositions or particles in the blanks.

1. The exercise was too difficult _____ him to do. _____
2. It was kind _____ you do that for her. _____
3. She is worried _____ her husband's health. _____
4. They are putting _____ several new buildings in that block. _____
5. The bus doesn't stop _____ this corner. _____
6. Have you heard _____ Sally's new baby? _____
7. Nora wants to go _____ a diet. _____
8. What are they laughing _____? _____
9. What was he talking _____? _____
10. He has been studying English _____ three years. _____
11. She has worked in that office _____ last year. _____
12. We hung the pictures _____ the fireplace. _____
13. The temperature dropped from ten degrees above zero to ten degrees _____ zero. _____
14. Why don't you sit _____ a more comfortable chair? _____
15. That building seems to be _____ fire. _____
16. The elevator is not running today. It is _____ of order. _____
17. What is the matter _____ him? _____
18. I make many mistakes _____ spelling. _____
19. I see Josie in the cafeteria _____ time to time. _____
20. I will get _____ touch with you next week. _____
21. He seems to be _____ a hurry. _____
22. She was absent _____ class twice last week. _____
23. He came to school _____ spite of the fact that he was not feeling well. _____
24. This book belongs _____ Nancy. _____



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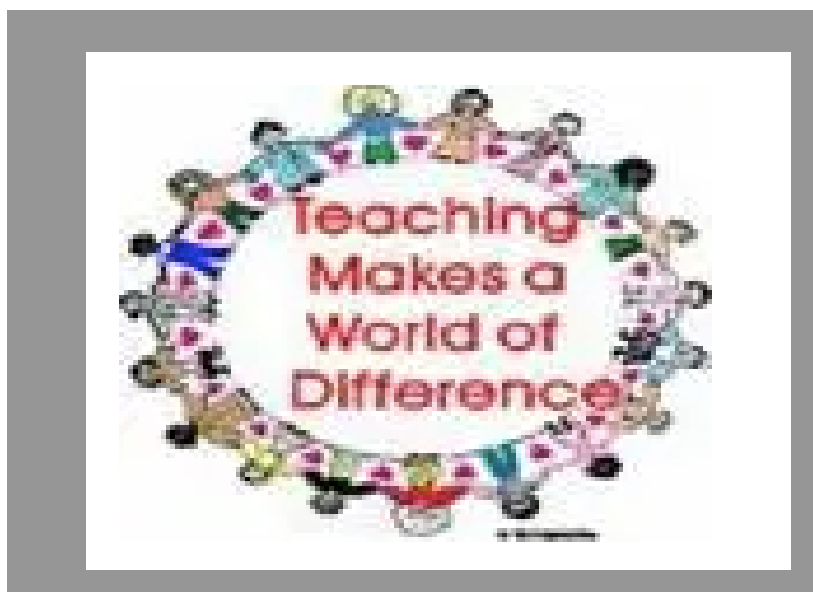
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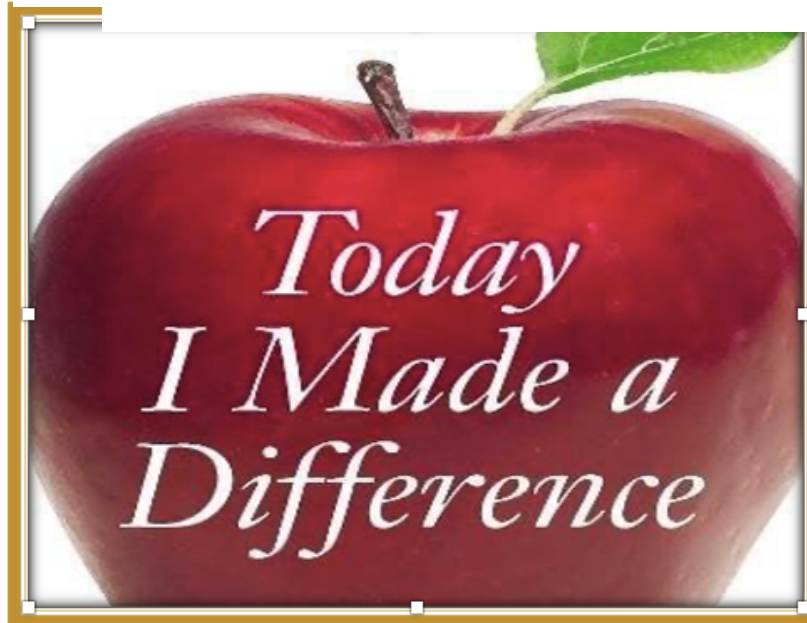
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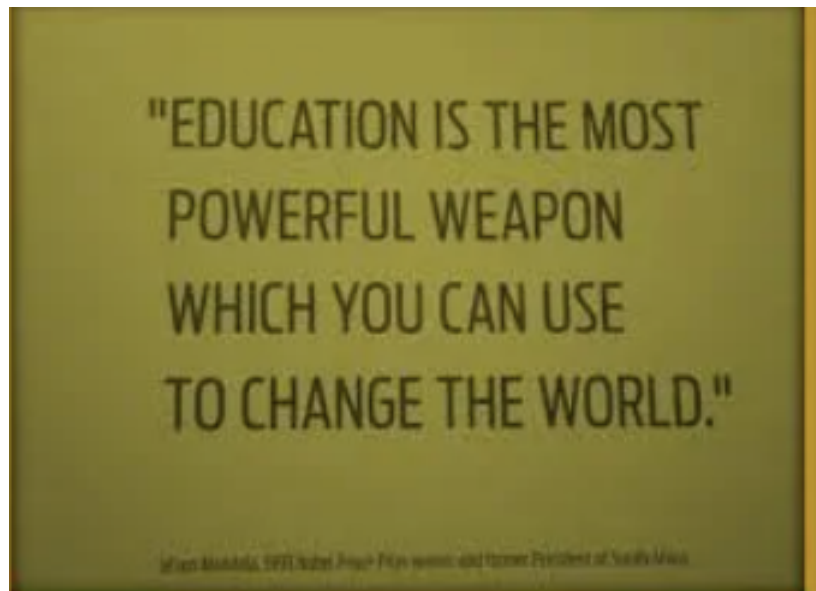
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STUDY HARD! 😊

THE END!